***Press* Release**

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Sunniest winter on record

Provisional figures issued by The Met. Office this afternoon show that England and Wales have had the sunniest winter since records began in 1909. Averaged across England and Wales there have been 2.53 hours of sunshine per day, significantly beating the previous record of 2.38 hours per day set over the winter of 1948/49.

Maps showing the distribution of winter sunshine across the UK will be available on the new climate pages recently introduced on The Met. Office website. These maps are part of the comprehensive climate information available on these pages at http://www.met-office.gov.uk/ukclimate.

Malcolm Lee, manager of The Met. Office's Climate Information Centre, said: "It has been a sunny winter in all but the extreme west of Britain; for instance London's Heathrow Airport has had its sunniest winter since records began there in 1958. By contrast western parts of Scotland have been particularly wet; some places have had twice as much rain as normal with over a metre of rain recorded in the southwest Highlands since the beginning of December."

For further details:
The Met. Office Press Office 01344 856655
New climate information pages http://www.met-office.gov.uk/ukclimate

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